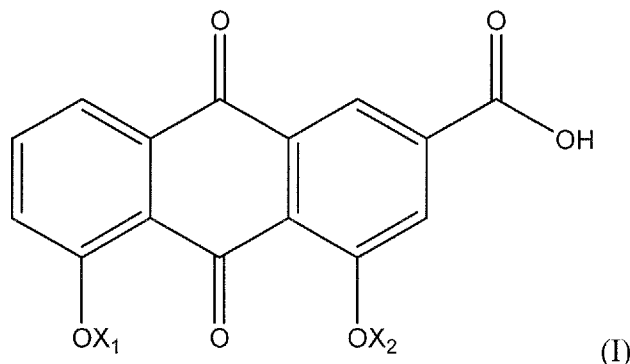


In the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1 (currently amended). A compound of general formula (I):



wherein X_1 is H or COR_1 and X_2 is H or COR_2 but X_1 and X_2 are not both H;

R_1 and R_2 are the same or different and are each C_{1-4} alkyl substituted with R_3 , or a four to seven-membered ring which is substituted with R_8 and can contain ~~or which contains~~ one or more heteroatoms selected from O, $S(O)_n$ and NR_9 ;

R_3 is F, CF_3 , OR_4 , NR_5R_6 or $S(O)_nR_7$;

R_4 , R_5 , and R_6 are the same or different and are each H or C_{1-4} alkyl optionally substituted with R_3 , or NR_5R_6 is a C_{4-6} heterocycloalkyl ring containing one or more heteroatoms selected from O, NR_8 and $S(O)_n$;

each n is 0-2;

R_7 is C_{1-4} alkyl;

R_8 is as defined for R_3 or C_{1-4} alkyl substituted with R_3 or halogen;

and

R_9 is H or C_{1-4} alkyl;

or a salt, ~~solvate or hydrate~~ thereof.

2 (previously presented). The compound of claim 1, wherein X_1 is COR_1 and X_2 is COR_2 .

3 (previously presented). The compound of claim 1, wherein X_1 is H and X_2 is COR_2 .

4 (previously presented). The compound of claim 1, wherein X_1 is COR_1 and X_2 is H.

5 (previously presented). The compound of claim 1, wherein R_3 is CF_3 , OR_4 , NR_5R_6 or $S(O)_nR_7$.

6 (previously presented). The compound of claim 1, which is 4,5-Bis(tetrahydropyran-4-carbonyloxy)-9,10-dioxo-dihydroanthracene-2-carboxylic acid.

7 (withdrawn). The compound of claim 1, which is;

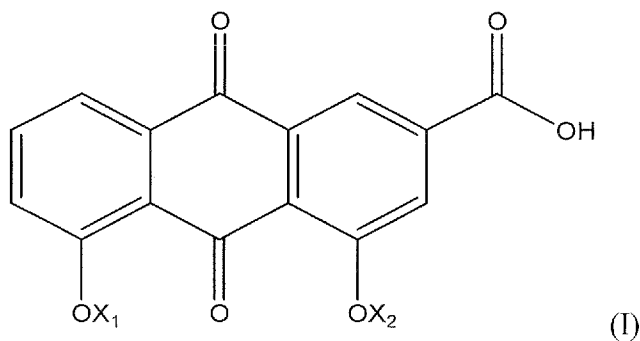
4,5-bisbutyryloxy-9,10-dioxo-9,10-dihydroanthracene-2-carboxylic acid;

4,5-bis(2-benzyloxyacetyloxy)-9,10-dioxo-9,10-dihydroanthracene-2-carboxylic acid;

4,5-bis(4-methoxybutyryloxy)-9,10-dioxo-9,10-dihydroanthracene-2-carboxylic acid; or

4,5-bis(tetrahydrofuran-3-carbonyloxy)-9,10-dioxo-9,10-dihydroanthracene-2-carboxylic acid.

8 (currently amended). A pharmaceutical composition for use in therapy, comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable diluent or carrier and a compound of general formula (I):



wherein X_1 is H or COR_1 and X_2 is H or COR_2 but X_1 and X_2 are not both H;

R_1 and R_2 are the same or different and are each C_{1-4} alkyl substituted with R_3 , or a four to seven-membered ring which can be optionally substituted with R_8 and can contain one or more additional heteroatoms selected from O, $S(O)_n$ and NR_9 ;

R_3 is F, CF_3 , OR_4 , NR_5R_6 or $S(O)_nR_7$;

R_4 , R_5 , and R_6 are the same or different and are each H or C_{1-4} alkyl optionally substituted with R_3 , or NR_5R_6 is a C_{4-6} heterocycloalkyl ring containing one or more heteroatoms selected from O, NR_8 and $S(O)_n$;

each n is 0-2;

R_7 is C_{1-4} alkyl;

R_8 is as defined for R_3 or C_{1-4} alkyl optionally substituted with R_3 or halogen;

and

R_9 is H or C_{1-4} alkyl;

or a salt, ~~solvate or hydrate~~ thereof.

9 - 24 (cancelled).